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The Latest News

By Telegraph to the N. Y. Sun.

SHERMAN'S ONWARD MARCH.

LATEST REBEL REPORTS.

Branchville Probably Captured and Charleston Evacuated.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Our Losses in the Late Engagement 91 Officers and 1,113 Men.

NO FIGHTING SINCE TUESDAY.

The Exchange of Prisoners.

Important Announcement by Grant.

THE CAPTIVES ALL TO BE RELEASED.

Miscellaneous Rebel News.

War Meetings in Richmond.

EVERYBODY BLOOD-THIRSTY.

Jeff. Denounced in the Rebel Congress

&c., &c., &c.

GENERAL SHERMAN.

Reported Capture of Branchville.

The Richmond journals of Thursday have an official report of the capture of Branchville by General Sherman. But the later rebel papers do not confirm this news. McBride's Bridge, seventeen miles west of Branchville, on the Charleston and Augusta Railroad, they state, had been captured by General Sherman, after a brisk fight. It is probable that this engagement was with our cavalry advance under General Kilpatrick. The rebel journals concur that the loss of Branchville would compel the surrender of Charleston within a short time. The following news from South Carolina is found in the Richmond papers of Friday last:

Washington, Feb. 12.—The Richmond Wing of Feb. 10th, contains the following:

Charleston, Feb. 8.—A dispatch from General Wheeler dated Holmes Bridge, Feb. 7th, 120 P. M., says: My pickets near Plaskville this morning were charged by three brigades of cavalry, which drove them beyond the village. Delrell's Tennessee brigade, being in the vicinity, met and charged the enemy, driving them back into the village.

(Branchville is on the line of the South Carolina Railroad, 28 miles from Branchville, and 47 from Augusta. It is only 49 miles southwest of Columbia.)—**Eric Wm.**

A dispatch from Branchville, this morning (Sat.), says: "The enemy have made their appearance along the South Carolina Railroad, beyond the Edisto River. They burned a house within a mile and a half of the railroad bridge. About seven o'clock yesterday morning our troops were withdrawn to this side of the bridge, and the bridge burned. The destruction of this bridge severs all railroad communication with Augusta."

Charleston, Feb. 9.—A dispatch from Orangeburg, to-day, says that the enemy are in front of the Edisto line, from near New Providence to Duncan's Bridge. The enemy show no disposition to force a crossing.

A dispatch from Gen. Wheeler, dated Feb. 8th, 3 P. M., says: "A large column of the enemy's infantry struck the railroad at Graham's and Blackville. Kupatrick is at Blackville with three brigades."

Washington, Feb. 12.—The Richmond Dispatch of Friday says a report was prevalent that Charleston had been evacuated, but it could not be traced to any official source.

Army of the Potomac.

Strengthening the New Lines.—Losses in the Late Engagement.

Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, Wednesday, Feb. 8, 1865.—8 P. M.—Nothing of interest has transpired on the lines to-day, although the weather has been more favorable than for several days past. The troops are busy building works along the newly established line, which will take some days to complete, when they will commence erecting new quarters for themselves. This will not be a difficult job, as there is plenty of excellent timber in the neighborhood. Lieutenant-Colonel Tremaine, wretchedly reported as Major Tremaine, of General Grant's staff, and of the Tenth New York Cavalry, who was badly wounded in the engagement on Monday, died last evening. He was a gallant officer, and much respected and loved by his comrades in the service. Captain Forbes, Commissary of Subsistence of the Cavalry Division, who fell from his horse and was badly injured a day or two since, died this morning. His wife has been with him for sometime, and is entirely prostrated by the sad calamity. Major Remond, of the First New Jersey Cavalry, was badly wounded in Monday's fight. Lieutenant Larkin, of the Eighty-eighth Pennsylvania Volunteers, was severely wounded. Lieutenant John Kelly, of the Ninety-seventh New York, was also wounded.

SECOND DISPATCH.

Headquarters, Feb. 10.—Two men were executed to-day in this army for desertion. Their names were James L. Hicks, 67th Pennsylvania, and Samuel Clement, 3d Maine. The latter was convicted of cowardice in addition to desertion.

The losses in the late engagements at Hatcher's Run, up to 91 officers and 1,113 men, not counting the missing, which will not exceed 100, in the first day's fight it was stated that the Second Division of the Second Corps were the only troops greatly engaged, which report did injustice to the Third Brigade of the Third Division, commanded by Brevet Brigadier-General M. Allister. That brigade was detached from the division, and sent to the support of General Smyth. They took position on the right, near the Tucker House, where they threw up a strong breastwork. About the time they had completed they were relieved by Gen. Remond's brigade, but were ordered to occupy the ground between the latter and Gen. Smyth's right, before they had time to get into position the enemy had

then made their appearance in three lines of battle, evidently expecting little opposition at that point. This is where the desperate fight of Sunday afternoon took place, and had McAllister's brigade not stood their ground, as they did, repulsing three desperate assaults, the Second Division would have been flanked, and the enemy gaining the Vaughan Road, would have been in a position to cut off the connection with our main lines, and undoubtedly caused us much heavier loss than that reported above.

No fighting has taken place since Tuesday, the enemy not seeming disposed to interfere with our occupancy of the ground gained in the late movement.

Lieut. S. A. Merrill, 1st Vermont Artillery; Lieut. Emil Mayer, 10 New York Volunteers; Assistant Surgeon Rudolph Grier's 15th New York Heavy Artillery; Lieut. Wm. F. Reissenger, 20th Pennsylvania's Volunteers, and Capt. J. M. Mansfield, 18th New York Volunteers, have been dismissed the service for various offences.

Deserters who came in yesterday say that rumors were current in their lines that Sherman was in possession of Branchville after a sharp engagement, but they have no further particulars. They also state that Gen. Lee was present at the fight at Hatcher's Run on Monday. Notwithstanding his personal efforts to urge his men, they could not be induced to fight with anything like the spirit they did formerly. This fact was also noticed by many of our officers who saw the rebel officers endeavor in vain to urge their men forward at different points.

W. D. McGREGOR,
REBEL REPORTS.

The Petersburg and Richmond papers give detailed accounts of the recent advance of the Army of the Potomac, from which it appears that the movement is regarded as part of a plan of General Grant to complete the investment of Petersburg, and that it has been successful.

The Petersburg Express states that "the Yankees met with decided reverses, though, as yet, they have not been driven from their newly erected entrenchments at Hatcher's Run." The Richmond Dispatch regards the movement as an attempt by General Grant to plant his left nearer the Southside Railroad, and advance another step in the investment of Petersburg. It claims that he was disappointed in this, but admits that he had effected a lodgment at Hatcher's Run, and that this certainly brings him nearer the Southside Railroad—the objective point. The same journal, however, intimates that this movement must be a "passing in disguise," as the position can be of no great strategic value, inasmuch as General Lee has made no attempt to dislodge him.

The fighting on Monday and Tuesday is described as very severe. On Monday morning a report prevailed that the Yankees had retired beyond Hatcher's Run, and General Pegram was sent out reconnoissance. He encountered the enemy two miles from the Vaughan Road, and an engagement at once took place, which resulted in Pegram falling back to his original position, "the Yankees pursuing rapidly." Reinforced by a division of the Evans' Legion, Pegram again resumed the offensive, and drove back our forces to a point where it stated they were joined by a full army corps. A fierce engagement took place, in which it is stated, that both three full corps of General Grant's army forced back two tenacious Confederate divisions. Mahone's division now came up, and a grand charge was made, which resulted in driving the Yankees from their entrencheds at Hatcher's Run. Darkins' mill was put to an end to the engagement. Gen. Pegram, who formerly commanded Early's Division, was instantly killed by a ball through his side early in the afternoon. His death threw his troops into disorder. The Confederate loss is represented as comparatively slight, but the number is not given.

General Lee was dangerously wounded on Tuesday morning while resisting a Federal advance higher up the Run, two miles from the scene of Monday's battle. Heavy skirmishing, it is stated, took place nearly all day, and at dusk a serious engagement, the severest of the day, occurred at burgess Mills. An official report from General Lee, however, states that no attack was made during the day, the operations being merely confined to active skirmishing.

Pittsburgh, Feb. 8.—There was no fighting to-day, and quiet was once more restored.

The Yankees still hold their position on Hatcher's Run. Their lines have theretofore been extended, but not advanced. Gen. Lorrel was wounded in the lungs, but the wound is not considered mortal. Col. Hoffman, of Virginia, was killed in the fight Monday. Our loss will not reach 500. The enemy's loss is estimated to be treble that number. The dead have all been buried, and the wounded all brought to the field. The enemy are erecting observations on our right. The heavy cannonading yesterday afternoon was caused by our artillery shelling the enemy's lines. Both sides were engaged to-day in strengthening their new lines.

Good News for the Captive.

Grant Announces that a General Exchange is to Occur.

Washington, Feb. 11.—Gen. Grant was before the Committee on the Conduct of the War this morning. The following questions were asked him:

Question.—It is stated, upon what authority I do not know, that you are charged entirely with the exchange of prisoners?

Answer.—That is correct; and, what is more, I have effected an arrangement for the exchange of prisoners made with my command, and officer for officer, or his equivalent, according to the old cartels, until one of the two parties has exhausted the number they now hold. I send a great number of letters daily from the prison camps in the South, every one of which I cause to be answered, telling the party that this arrangement has been made, and that I appear exonerated and confirmed that he presented to the commanding general a full history of his policy as connected with the peace negotiations, on that the interview resulted agreeably and usefully.

The Wilmington Journal says that two Yankee gunboats shelled Fort Anderson on Friday last.

No damage was done to the fort. Six of our men were wounded—two seriously. There were two monitors on the river, but neither came near enough to participate. The rebels replied, and put a shot through one of the gunboats, compelling her to haul off.

The Raleigh Confederate says that the exchanges between North Carolina, on the one hand, and

Richmond, were a mutual and immediate and protracted interview with President Davis. The members of the conference were confidential, so we are

unable to say that the Federal was frank, unreserved, and confirmed that he presented to the commanding general a full history of his policy as connected with the peace negotiations, on that the interview resulted agreeably and usefully.

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